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The Urban District of Kirkham

Annual Health Report

for the Year 1952

Medical Officer of Health:

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., L.I.O.B.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. M. Collier, Chairman.

Councillor D. Beardsworth.
Councillor R. Benson.
Councillor E. H. Holmes.
Councillor J. Lawler.
Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson.
Councillor E. G. Sergeant.
Councillor T. Ward, J.P., C.C.

Councillor J. Whiteside, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E., L.I.O.B.

Clerk: N. SWIFT, A.C.C.S.

Annual Health Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population (At the 1931 census the population was 4,031, whilst in 1949 the civilian population was estimated to be 4,710. The home population in 1951 was 7,388).	5,765
Number of inhabited houses at 31-12-52	1,356
Rateable value at 31-12-52	£31,656
Amount produced by a penny rate	£126.57

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—82 births (48 males and 34 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 18.1 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 14.9 per 1,000 in 1951.

Stillbirths.—There were 2 stillbirths during the year, making a stillbirth rate of 24 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 22 in 1951.

Deaths.—56 deaths (32 males and 24 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 13.6 per 1,000 compares with a death rate of 14.2 per 1,000 in 1951.

Infantile Mortality.—Two deaths of infants under one year of age occurred. The ages, sexes and causes of death were as follows :—

	Ages of females	Ages of males	Totals
Meningitis, pneumonia, staphylococcal septicaemia	—	1 month	1
Premature birth	14 days	—	1
	1	1	2

The infantile mortality rate was 24 compared with 46 in 1951.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age...	0
Maternal Mortality	0
Deaths from Tuberculosis, all ages.....	0
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0
Deaths from Cancer	8

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1952 :—

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Infective and parasitic diseases	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	4	0	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	5	8
Coronary disease, angina	2	1	3
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart diseases	2	5	7
Other circulatory disease	0	7	7
Bronchitis	3	0	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	4	10
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
	32	24	56

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district for the past five years:

	England and Wales		148 smaller towns (25-50,000 pop.)		Kirkham Urban District	
Year	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1948	17.9	17.9	19.2	10.7	22.1	12.1
1949	16.7	16.7	18.0	11.6	22.8	12.7
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	21.08	14.1
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.9	14.2
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	18.1	13.6

The most notable features of the above Vital Statistics are the rise in the birth-rate and the decrease in the number of deaths of infants under one year compared with the two previous years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Borough of Lytham St. Annes, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde and Preesall, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Acting Surveyor, 1/1/52—29/2/52:

E. W. FRYER, M.I.MUN.E.

Acting Sanitary Inspector, 1/1/52—29/2/52:

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., CERT. R.S.I.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, 1/3/52—31/12/52:

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E., L.I.O.B.

Hospital Facilities.—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious Diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the case of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Ambulance Service is Administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in laboratories at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary. The latter laboratory is also used for the examination of water and milk samples.

Professional Nursing in the Home. General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service.—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.—A County Council Clinic is located in Mellor Road and sessions held, at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :—

Monday	...	a.m. Minor Ailments Clinic.
Tuesday	...	p.m. Ante-Natal (alternate Tuesdays).
Thursday	...	a.m. Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).
		a.m. Minor Ailments.
		a.m. Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).
		p.m. C.W.C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1952 :—

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL.	
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year.	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over.	Age unknown.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases rem'd to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
Smallpox														
Scarlet Fever	1							1					1	
Diphtheria & Membranous Group														
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)														
Acute Primary Pneumonia	5						5							
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia														
Puerperal Fever														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Cerebro-Spinal Fever														
Acute Poliomyelitis														
Acute Polio-encephalitis														
Encephalitis Lethargica														
Ophthalmia Neonatorium														
Dysentery	1							1						
Erysipelas	1									1				
Malaria contracted abroad														
Do. In this country														
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox														
Measles and German Measles	7		1	6										
Whooping Cough	1		1											
Any other disease														
Totals	16	0	2	6	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	1	0

Infectious diseases were minimal in 1952.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality During 1952.

Age Periods	— New Cases —				— Deaths —			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y		Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y	
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3		0		0		0	

In 1951 there were 2 new cases notified, and 2 deaths reported from the disease.

In conclusion I thank the Members of the Health Committee and Officers of the Urban District Council and in particular the Sanitary Inspector and Mr. N. Swift for courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1952.

There have not been any major changes in legislation during the year, and reasonable progress has been made. I commenced duties with the authority on the 1st March, 1952, and some time has been taken up in becoming accustomed to the district and clearing up arrears of work, with the result that routine inspections have suffered. It is hoped to remedy this during 1953. During the ten months it has been impossible due to settling down and to work on the surveying side to inspect all factories, shops, food premises, etc., at least once during the year.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the numbers of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc. :—

Water Closets	1,465
Waste Water Closets	1
Pail Closets	0
Privy Closets	0
Privy Ashpits	0
Dry Ashpits	1
Dustbins	1,450
Cesspools	0
Septic Tanks	13
Houses not connected direct to sewer	34
Houses on Water Carriage System	1,356
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	100 per cent.
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System	97.5 per cent.

One Pail Closet was converted to a W.C.

Sewers and Sewerage System.—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consist of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks, and 14 sludge beds. These tanks were constructed in 1941.

Rivers and Streams.—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—runs through the district, entering from Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally to Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

Water Supply.—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have individual supplies from this source and all have piped supplies within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. One sample of water was taken for bacteriological examination during the year and proved satisfactory. The mains were extended to take in the new Housing Estate.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received.—233 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council Houses for repairs requiring attention. 542 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 233 nuisances were discovered, of which 220 were abated, leaving 13 to carry forward to 1953. 43 Informal Notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 5. There were no legal proceedings. In the main most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. The number of defects found and remedied were as follows :—

Defect	Private Properties	Council Properties
Rain water pipes renewed	5	1
Wall pointing repaired	2	1
Roofs repaired	12	30
W.C. bursts repaired	2	1
New W.C. cisterns fitted	2	—
Accumulation of rubbish removed .	2	—
Chimney stacks rebuilt	1	1
Dustbins provided	7	—
Soil pipe cleansed and repaired	1	—
Eaves gutters repaired	5	2

Eaves gutters renewed	2	...	—
Fireback brickwork rebuilt	1	...	—
New window frames fitted	6	...	—
Floor woodwork renewed	1	...	6
Dangerous garden wall rebuilt	1	...	2
W.C. cistern repaired	1	...	16
New chimney pot fitted	1	...	—
Ball taps repaired	—	...	25
Culvert cleansed	1	...	—
New W.C. pedestals fitted	2	...	4
W.C. seats renewed	2	...	2
Window frames mastic pointed	1	...	1
New door locks fitted	1	...	26
Weatherboards and thresholds fitted	1	...	14
W.C. flush pipe joint renewed	—	...	2
Repairs to door woodwork	—	...	10
New ashpan fitted	—	...	1
New firebricks provided	—	...	58
New firebars provided	—	...	50
Windows repaired	—	...	10
Repairs to electric lights and plugs	—	...	44
Repairs to gas boilers	—	...	13
Gas leaks repaired	—	...	12
Tiles refixed	—	...	2
Doors rehung	—	...	11
Repairs to gas fires	—	...	6
Fixtures reset	—	...	2
Hearths relayed	—	...	4
New floor manhole formed	—	...	1
W.C. overflow extended	—	...	1
Choked sink pipes cleared	—	...	6
Sink waste pipes renewed	—	...	9
Taps repaired	—	...	13
Lavatory basins refixed	—	...	8
Lavatory basin waste cleansed	—	...	1
Bath waste repaired	—	...	2
Handrails made secure	—	...	2
Repairs to concrete floor	—	...	1
New window frame fitted	—	...	1
New window frame furniture fitted	—	...	7
Window frames eased	—	...	17
Repairs to gates	—	...	3
New tap fitted	—	...	1
New manhole cover fitted	—	...	1
Repairs to wall plaster	—	...	5
Burst water pipes repaired	—	...	2
Clothes post renewed	—	...	1
New doors fitted	—	...	2

New drainer boards fitted	—	...	2
New damp proof courses fitted	—	...	2
W.C. obstruction cleared	—	...	1
Repairs to porch	—	...	1

DISINFESTATIONS.

Three houses were disinfested for cockroaches, smoke-type fumigants being successfully used. Free issues of insect powder are available for the public.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfecting their premises. There was no other demand for disinfection of premises. Library books were collected from houses where infectious diseases occurred and were disinfected before return to the library.

SCHOOLS.

The schools were inspected regularly and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs to yard sufaces, etc. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses, offensive trades, tents or sheds within the district. There is one caravan which has been there for many years.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS.

Visits were made to the two cinemas and improvements were made to the sanitary conveniences and fire exits at one. The males' sanitary convenience was completely rebuilt.

All drainage for the new houses was supervised, tested and passed. In all 28 lengths of new drainage were tested.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received. There are seven factory chimneys in the town.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. One 7 cu. yard Dennis Refuse Lorry was engaged regularly on this work and one Bedford Lorry collected salvage on one day per week. Collections on the average were weekly and were well maintained. The staff engaged on this work comprised four loaders, 1 driver, 1 salvage worker and 1 tip man. The average number of daily loads was 3½, and the approximate weight of refuse removed was 1,600 tons.

Disposal has been carried out at Carr Lane Tip reclaiming some low-lying land subject to flooding. Disposal is by a modified form of controlled tipping. This is not too satisfactory, and the Council agreed to the spending of a considerable amount of money to put the tip into proper condition and to effectively carry out the Ministry's Recommendation for Controlled Tipping. This land is ideal for the purpose, and properly executed, the raising of the land by tipping should be an improvement.

The Dennis Wagon is 13 years old and the Council will have to consider the purchase of a new machine within the next year.

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £2,447. This is equivalent to a 1/7 rate. The approximate cost per 1,000 houses was £1,804, and per 1,000 head of population £425.

The collection of salvage was increased by the introduction of a bonus scheme for the men. Unfortunately the former high prices offered for waste paper were considerably reduced, but in spite of this £1,051 15s. 3d. was received from the sale of salvaged materials. The tonnage salvaged was as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.
Waste paper	75	3	3
Rags	14	19	1
Light iron	41	16	0
Heavy cast iron	2	4	2
Mixed metals	2	5	0
	136	8	2

Also 30 doz. bottles.

The waste paper was despatched to Thames Board Mills, Ltd., with whom the Council now have a contract.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

A survey was commenced of all shops coming within the scope of the Food and Drugs Act, but as this was not completed a full report will be given in next year's Annual Report. 42 visits were made for the purpose of administration of the Food and Drugs Act and 2 notices served. Both were complied with, one immediately, but the other only after legal proceedings had been taken. In the latter case the summonses were (1) that the windows in premises where toffee and nuts were being prepared were not in a proper state of repair; (2) the ceilings and walls were dirty and were not in a proper state of repair; (3) persons employed at the factory were not wearing proper clothing and caps and the clothes they were wearing were dirty; (4) persons employed at the firm were not supplied with hot water and clean towels for their use; (5) suitable receptacles were not provided for filth and refuse to be deposited; (6) did not cause a notice to be fixed near every convenience requesting employees to wash; (7) did not take steps to protect the food from dust, dirt and filth. All except the last-mentioned were proven and the defendant fined. A marked improvement has taken place in that particular food factory since that date.

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction:—

½ lb. Tripe.	101½ lbs. Ham.
12 tins Fruit.	170 lbs. Smoked Haddock.
2 tins Shrimps.	39 lbs. Bacon.
5 tins Luncheon Meat.	16 lbs. Butter.
1 tin Salmon.	4 jars Pickles.
1 tin Beef Loaf.	5 tins Jam.
1 tin Tomatoes.	2 tins Milk.
6 tins Peas.	3 tins Beans.
1 tin Fresh Herring Roes.	2 tins Apple Puree.

There is no slaughtering of animals for food in the District, all killing being done at St. Annes Abattoir.

Milk Supply and Distribution.—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to many surrounding districts. The administration of this plant under present legislation is by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered dealers is as follows:—

Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	10
Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, Farm Bottled	6
Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, Pasteurised	8
Licensed to sell Sterilised Milk	0

There are also 4 raw milk dealers. A very high percentage of the milk retailed is bottled. One complaint was received in regard to milk supply and was satisfactorily investigated.

Ice Cream.—One factory is registered for the manufacture of ice cream. This has been inspected on several occasions and always found to be well run and maintained. 22 dealers are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream and the general standard of vehicles and equipment is high.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—3 premises are registered in connection with the manufacture of made-up meat products. These have been inspected and some improvements are taking place. The standard of cleanliness is good.

Food Sampling by the County Council.—47 samples were taken by County Inspectors during the year, comprising:—

29 Milk.
1 Malted Milk.
2 Olive Oil.
2 Glaubers Salt.
1 Ovaltine.
1 Salt.
1 Non-brewed Condiment.
1 Piccalilli.
1 Coffee.
1 Meat Paste.
1 Cod Liver Oil.
1 Glycerin.
1 Pickled Onions.
1 Coffee Extract Mixture, dry.
1 Seidlitz Powder.
2 Pork Sausage.

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
1 pork sausage.	Deficiency of meat.	Formal sample obtained.
1 pork sausage.	Deficiency of meat.	Prosecution — vendor fined £1 and 3 gns. costs.
1 Seidlitz powder.	Incorrect weight.	Packer communicated with.
2 formal milk.	Deficiency of solids-not-fat and presence of extraneous water.	Prosecution — vendor fined £10 and 5 gns. costs.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

37 visits were made in connection with the Shops Acts.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	12	0	—
Factories without Mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	12	0	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	1	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	3	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the above Act. Four inspections were made to them during the year. No samples were taken.

RODENT CONTROL

Fifty-four complaints of rodent infestation were received. These were investigated and treated by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were treated twice and 29 takes recorded. The amount of sewer infestation appears to be small.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Sixteen premises are licensed to store petroleum. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 18,880 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,356
Number of new houses erected during the year :—	
(a) By the Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	6

Housing Conditions.—The houses generally are small to medium sized houses of both parlour and non-parlour type. Although there is a large percentage of old property, the internal condition of the houses is good. Many old houses of poor external appearance are well kept, and in the main tenants show great pride in their houses.

There are still 182 applicants for Council houses, 96 being tenants and 86 being lodgers. Of these 42 reside outside the area.

A scheme of 29 houses was commenced in March.

Housing is at last showing some improvement and the unnatural prices are falling slightly. Another two years should show a difference in the housing position in Kirkham.

There are no known cases of legal overcrowding, but there are several difficult cases where sleeping accommodation is overcrowded. This is being taken into consideration when applicants are considered for new houses.

Two houses previously subject to Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, became vacant, the orders having been suspended by licence. The licences expired and the owners were notified to demolish the properties.

STAFF.

Thanks are hereby expressed to the efficient service rendered by Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk in the Department, and for the excellent and willing co-operation from other members of the staff and workmen.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. RIDDIOUGH.